

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 and 22-28 are currently pending in the present patent application, with claim 1 having been cancelled through the above claim amendments.

In an Office Action mailed July 13, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-6, and 22-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) as set forth in the Background section of the application in combination with U.S. Patent No. 6,495,888 to Yamoto ("Yamoto"). Claims 2 and 3 were indicated as allowable if properly rewritten in independent form.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and is accordingly now in condition for allowance, as is claim 3 which depends from claim 2. Dependent claims 4-6 have been amended to depend from claim 2 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 2 and due to the additional limitations added by each of these claims.

Amended independent claim 22 recites, in part, a first conductive region in a source body region. The first conductive region includes at least one first implanted region having a first doping level that is lower than a second doping level of a drain region. The first conductive region further includes two second implanted regions having a third doping level higher than the first doping level. The first implanted region includes a peripheral portion contiguous to the second implanted regions at least on one side facing the drain region and a transverse portion extending from the peripheral portion which physically separates and electrically connects the second implanted regions. The transverse portion accommodates the body-contact region and a width of the peripheral portion in a transverse direction perpendicular to a length of the peripheral portion is less than a width of the transverse portion along the transverse direction.

Neither the AAPA, Yamoto, nor any of the other prior art references of record, whether taken singly or in combination, discloses or suggest the structure recited for the first conductive region of claim 22. For these reasons, amended claim 22 is allowable and dependent claims 23-26 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 22 and due to the additional limitations added by each of these claims. Amended independent claim 27 is allowable for reasons similar to those for claims 2

and 22 and dependent claim 28 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 27 and due to the additional limitations added by this claim.

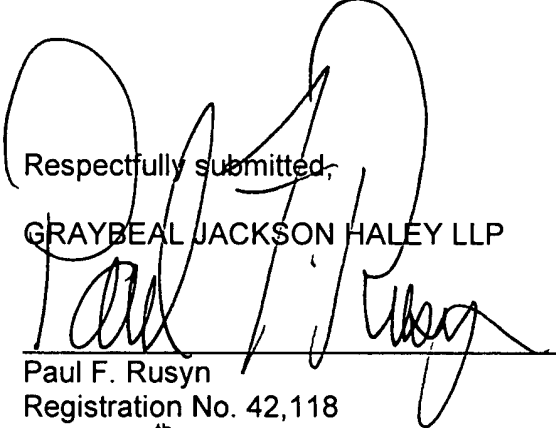
Please note that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) has already been filed in this application, and thus to most efficiently advance prosecution of this application the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned to arrange for a telephone interview if the Examiner determines any of the pending claims are not in condition for allowance.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. If a need for any fee in addition to that paid with this response is found, for any reason or at any point during the prosecution of this application, kindly consider this a petition therefore and charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account 07-1897.

Dated this 13th day of October, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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